

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a metal hydroxide from a salt solution, wherein a metal hydroxide is firstly precipitated from the salt solution and the salt solution-bearing suspension produced in that way is then filtered through at least one filter (3, 6-8, 13-17) of a cross-flow filtration installation (3, 6-8, 13-17),

characterised in that

a permeate produced by filtration of the suspension is directly fed to the cross-flow filtration installation (3, 7, 14-17) again.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1 characterised in that the permeate from one of the filters (8, 15, 17) is fed to at least one other filter (7, 14, 16) of the cross-flow filtration installation.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 characterised in that the suspension is filtered by means of a membrane filter.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 3 characterised in that the suspension is filtered by means of a membrane filter having pores whose pore width is up to 30 micrometres.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 4 characterised in that the suspension is filtered by means of a membrane filter having pores whose pore width is between 0.05 and 0.5 micrometre.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 characterised in that for precipitation of the metal hydroxide the salt solution is fed to a reaction container (1, 5, 10).

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 characterised in that a concentrate filtered from the filter (8, 17) is purified to obtain the metal hydroxide.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 characterised in that the suspension is filtered by means of at least two filters (6-8, 13-17), wherein a first filter is arranged upstream of a second filter (6-8, 13-17).

9. (Original) A method according to claim 8 characterised in that the permeate passing through the second filter (8, 15, 17) is passed back to the first filter (7, 14, 16).

10. (Original) A method according to claim 9 characterised in that a concentrate produced at the second filter (8, 15, 17) is purified in a purification unit for obtaining metal hydroxide.

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8 characterised in that pure water is fed to at least one of the filters (8) for flushing out at least one soluble salt.

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8 characterised in that the permeate passing through the first filter (7) is fed to a reverse osmosis unit (9).

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12 characterised in that pure water is obtained by means of the reverse osmosis unit (9) and is fed to the second filter (8).

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8 characterised in that the suspension is filtered by means of the first and second filters (3, 6-8, 13-17), wherein the filters (3, 6-8, 13-17) are arranged in a respective filter stage and a first filter stage is arranged upstream of a second filter stage.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 14 characterised in that the permeate passing through the filter (8) of the second filter stage is fed to the first filter stage.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 14 characterised in that connected upstream of the first filter stage is a further filter stage (6) with which the suspension is subjected to pre-filtration.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 16 characterised in that the concentrate from the further filter stage (6) is passed into the first filter stage and that the permeate from the further filter stage (6) is fed to a reverse osmosis unit.

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17 characterised in that the permeate from the reverse osmosis unit is passed into a purification unit, the purification unit flushing out at least one soluble salt with the permeate from the reverse osmosis unit.

19. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 characterised in that precipitation of the metal hydroxide is effected by means of milk of lime or caustic soda solution.

20. (Cancelled).